

**From:** Birgfeld, Erin [Birgfeld.Erin@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 5/15/2018 1:34:32 PM  
**To:** Grundler, Christopher [grundler.christopher@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Morning Consult Energy: Pruitt Received Round-the-Clock Security from First Day at EPA  
**Attachments:** Press Interview for Chris Grundler 5-18-2018 - updated.docx

Sure. Here is the WP story. Stay tuned for WSJ. That will take a bit longer as I have to get it from the press office.

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Thanks. Hope the summit is going well!

-Erin

*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

Energy and Environment

# Scott Pruitt requested, received 24/7 security starting on his first day at EPA

By Brady Dennis and Juliet Eilperin May 14 at 9:07 PM [Email the author](#)

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt faces rising scrutiny over several ethics issues, including his use of taxpayer money. (Video: Bastien Inzaurrealde/Photo: Jabin Boissford/The Washington Post)

*This post has been updated.*

Scott Pruitt began receiving round-the-clock security from the moment he stepped foot inside the Environmental Protection Agency in February 2017, at the behest of a Trump administration political appointee, according to emails obtained by The Washington Post.

The EPA's inspector general said in a letter Monday that Pruitt got extensive protection from the very start of his tenure but did not clarify who requested it. The separate series of emails obtained by The Washington Post shows that the decision to provide Pruitt with

24/7 coverage was made by Don Benton, a Republican former Washington state senator who served as the agency's senior White House adviser in the first weeks of the new administration.

"EPA's Protective Service Detail began providing 24/7 coverage of the Administrator the first day he arrived," Inspector General Arthur Elkins wrote in response to inquiries from Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.) about what threats prompted Pruitt's nonstop security, which has cost in excess of \$3 million. "The decision was made by the Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training after being informed that Mr. Pruitt requested 24/7 protection once he was confirmed as Administrator."

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The inspector general's office, which investigates threats made against any EPA employee, "played no role in this decision," Elkins added.

In a Feb. 12, 2017, email to several EPA security officials, Benton framed the decision as a precautionary measure given the controversy sure to ensue from some of the president's early policy decisions. "I have requested 24-7 protection for the new administrator for the first week at least and then evaluate from there," Benton wrote.

"There will be several Executive Orders signed when [Pruitt] is sworn in that will likely stir the hornets nest and with the security issue in the Atlanta office last week as well as the lady who threatened former administrator [Gina] McCarthy not showing up for court and at large in DC it is best to be on the safe side," he continued.

EPA officials discussed the increased costs and strain on the agency's criminal-investigations division that would stem from such a move. The acting special agent in charge, Eric Weese, wrote colleagues that nonstop protection would entail doubling the number of agents on Pruitt's security detail to 16.

Weese predicted this would be "a major disruption" to the division's assets in the Mid-Atlantic region, "but there will be no other way to pull this off."

Agency spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in a statement Monday that, "as the report says, EPA's Office of Inspector General does not determine security assessments. EPA's

Protective Service Detail handles security decisions and this particular decision was made before Administrator Pruitt arrived at EPA.”

Some Cabinet members routinely receive heightened security as part of their jobs, including the secretaries of defense, state and homeland security. FBI agents accompany the attorney general around the clock. But for other Cabinet posts, the level of protection varies, based on circumstances. Early in the Trump administration, for example, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos received a full protective detail, at an estimated initial cost of \$1 million a month.

At the EPA, prior administrators have not typically received 24/7 protection. Pruitt’s immediate predecessor, McCarthy, typically had a security detail that accompanied her to work each day, to meetings and to events and dropped her off at home each night. The detail also traveled with her on official business. But McCarthy’s detail was roughly a third of the size of the one that guards Pruitt.

“While I did get threats, I did not feel like I was particularly under threat,” McCarthy said in a recent interview. She said she declined the agents’ proposal that she expand her protection. “I did what I thought was the minimum.”

Agency officials, including Pruitt, have said repeatedly that he has experienced far more threats than previous administrators. And Pruitt has maintained that he left decisions about the size and intensity of his security detail, as well as related decisions such as traveling first class for safety, to Pasquale “Nino” Perrotta, the special agent in charge who took over after Weese was reassigned.

Perrotta, who has been under scrutiny for the expenditures related to Pruitt’s security and travel, retired from the agency late last month.

Grilled at a hearing on Capitol Hill last month about the need for such extensive security, Pruitt read directly from a list of alleged threats the inspector general had compiled last summer, including one posted on social media that read: “Pruitt, I’m gonna find you and put a bullet between your eyes. Don’t think I’m joking. I’m planning this.”

The 14 incidents collected by the inspector general to that point also included a “potentially threatening postcard” from a person who “expressed regret and apologized”

when confronted by investigators, as well as a letter from a prison inmate that authorities concluded “did not reveal any overt threatening language.”

There were no confirmed threat cases open the day Pruitt took office, according to an individual with direct knowledge of the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear of retaliation.

Elkins made clear in his letter Monday that his office “has never conducted a ‘threat assessment’ ” for Pruitt — a broader, more formal evaluation used to help determine what level and type of protection is warranted for an official.

“It includes all available information, including the results of threat investigations, but also other factors, such as notoriety, history of threats or violence directed against the person or event, other dangers or potentials dangers that may be associated with the person or event, and location,” Elkins wrote, adding, “The OIG is not a decision-maker for the EPA.”

Elkins said that the EPA’s front office asked the inspector general to undertake such an assessment in February 2017 but that he “declined and informed EPA management that it is not the role of the OIG to provide a threat assessment.” Later, he wrote, his office provided the list of threats it had investigated to Pruitt’s protective service detail, which was in the process of preparing its own threat assessment.

Perrotta wrote a brief memo May 1, 2017, requesting approval for Pruitt to begin flying first and business class whenever possible, based on security concerns. Perrotta said that Pruitt was being recognized more often in public and that those guarding him had noticed “at times lashing out from passengers which occurs while the Administrator is seated in coach with [his personal security detail] not easily accessible to him due to uncontrolled full flights.”

As a result, Perrotta wanted a way to better control the environment around the EPA chief. “We believe that the continued use of coach seats for the Administrator would endanger his life,” he said. Earlier this year, after a public outcry over the cost of his travels, Pruitt said he instructed his detail to again seat him in coach class whenever feasible.

Whitehouse and Carper, who requested the information that Elkins ultimately provided Monday, said in a statement that Pruitt's decision to request full-time security from the moment he took over at the EPA raises questions about his previous claims.

"A threat to a federal employee's personal security is extremely serious, but so is using security as pretext for special treatment on the public dime," the senators said. "This letter raises troubling questions about whether Administrator Pruitt told the truth during his testimony before the House. Now more than ever, Mr. Pruitt should come clean about his spending of taxpayer dollars on all manner of extravagances, and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle should demand he do so."

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**From:** Grundler, Christopher  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 9:05 AM  
**To:** Birgfeld, Erin <Birgfeld.Erin@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Morning Consult Energy: Pruitt Received Round-the-Clock Security from First Day at EPA

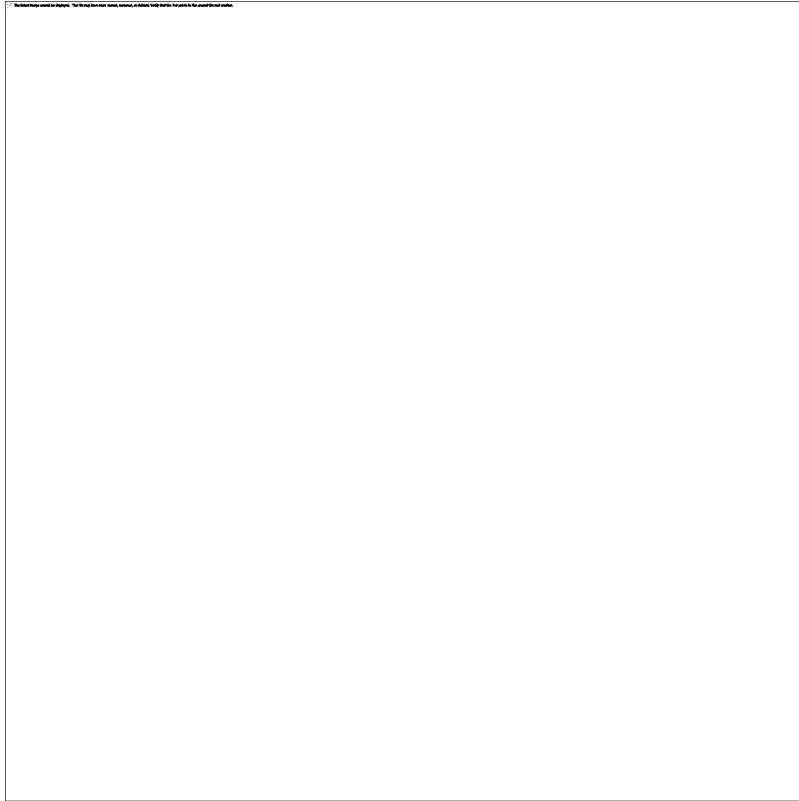
Erin-can you cut and paste the WSJ and Post stories below and email to me—they are both behind a paywall. Thx

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Christopher Grundler, Director  
Office of Transportation and Air Quality  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
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734.214.4207 (Ann Arbor MI)  
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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Morning Consult <[reply@e.morningconsult.com](mailto:reply@e.morningconsult.com)>  
**Date:** May 15, 2018 at 8:59:56 AM EDT  
**To:** <[grundler.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:grundler.christopher@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Energy: Pruitt Received Round-the-Clock Security from First Day at EPA  
**Reply-To:** The Morning Consult <[reply-fec317777265037e-668\\_HTML-277985-7245018-0@e.morningconsult.com](mailto:reply-fec317777265037e-668_HTML-277985-7245018-0@e.morningconsult.com)>



By Jacqueline Toth

## Top Stories

- Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt started getting 24/7 security from his first day at the agency, according to a letter from EPA Inspector General Arthur Elkins to Democratic senators. According to emails obtained by The Washington Post, Don Benton, who was the EPA's senior White House adviser during the Trump administration's first weeks, asked for the protection for Pruitt and described it as a precaution, writing that several executive orders Pruitt would sign "will likely stir the hornets nest." ( The Washington Post )
- Lawyers for plaintiffs are alleging that employees at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V. thought the company was using illegal software on diesel-run automobiles to cheat on United States emissions tests, according to court documents unsealed in Manhattan federal court in which the lawyers cite company officials, internal chat rooms and external emails to back their claims. Fiat Chrysler has denied that it manipulated emissions as United States authorities

and consumers have alleged and says it "will defend vigorously against" the allegations. ( [The Wall Street Journal](#))

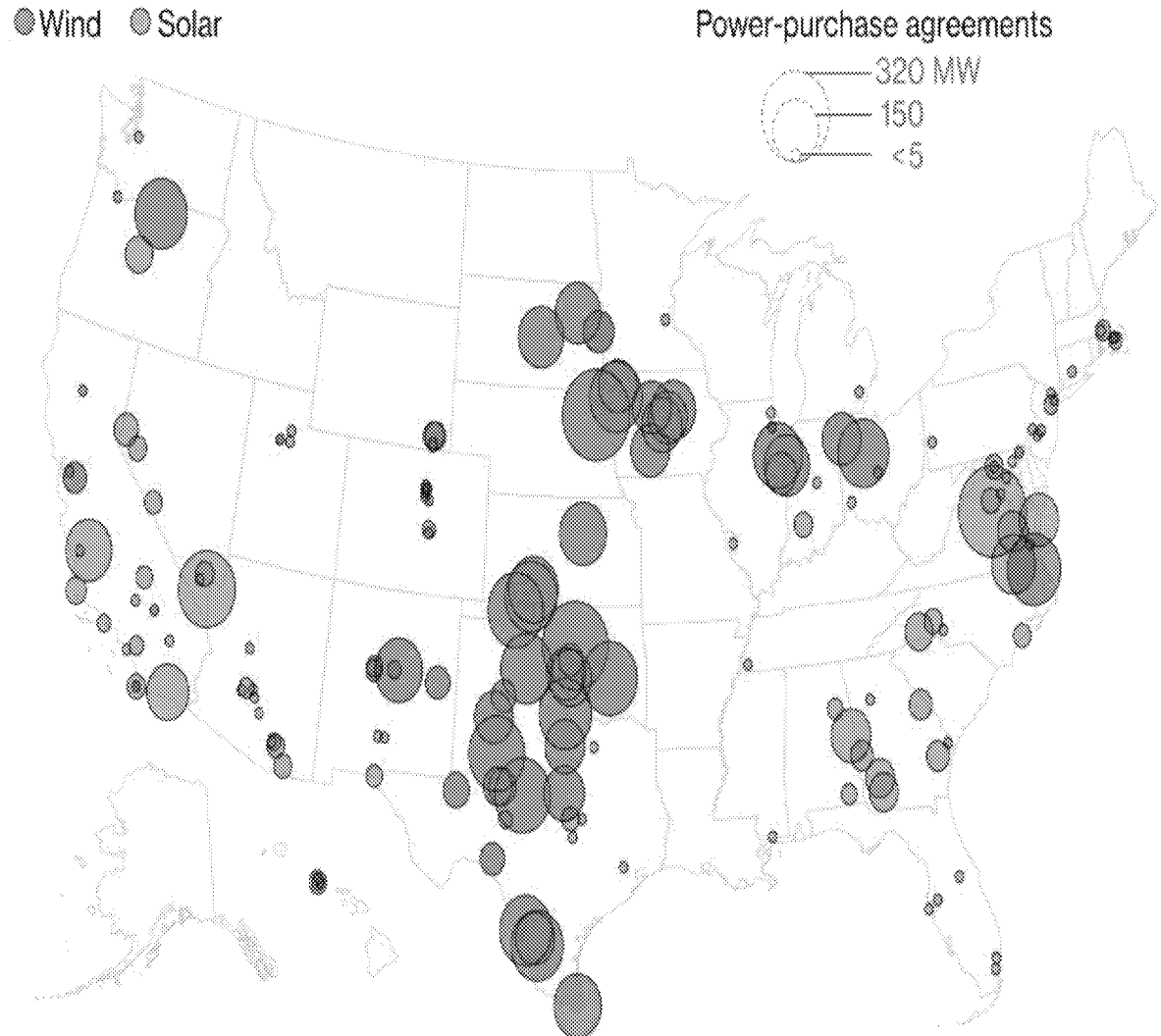
- The number of air conditioners globally is projected to climb from 1.6 billion units today to 5.6 billion units by midcentury - an increase that would nearly double the greenhouse gas emissions released by coal and natural gas plants to power the units and further increase demand for air conditioning, according to a report from the International Energy Agency. Ninety percent of American households already have air conditioning, the report says, and much of the projected increase in air conditioning is expected in India, China and Indonesia. ( [The New York Times](#))
  - Tesla Inc. executives, including Chief Executive Elon Musk, decided not to act on concerns raised by Tesla engineers that the Autopilot system on the company's electric cars lacked sufficient safeguards to keep drivers attentive and repeatedly talked about adding sensors to require drivers to look at the road or keep their hands on the steering wheel, according to people familiar with the discussions. Ultimately, the decision "came down to cost," said one of the people familiar with the talks, but Tesla cars with Autopilot have occasionally been involved in accidents, with federal transportation safety agencies currently investigating one such crash that took place on March 23. ( [The Wall Street Journal](#))
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## Chart Review

[America's Clean Power Map: Solar on Coasts, Wind Rules Heartland](#)  
**Bloomberg**

## Clean Energy From Coast to Coast

The southeast is emerging as a solar hub, as wind still rules the plains



Source: Bloomberg New Energy Finance

**Bloomberg**

## Events Calendar (All Times Local)

### TUESDAY

AclaraConnect conference

7 a.m.

California Energy Summit

7 a.m.



Energy Risk USA conference	7:30 a.m.
Solar Power Southeast	8 a.m.
Axios event on Infrastructure Week	8 a.m.
National Infrastructure Week	8 a.m.
Senate Energy and Natural Resources hearing on Advisory Council on Historic Preservation chair nomination	10 a.m.
U.S. Energy Association event on best practices to design power sector programs	10:30 a.m.
Global America Business Institute discussion on fuel cycle development in Saudi Arabia	12 p.m.
Wilson Center conversation on Alaska's climate policy	1:30 p.m.
House Interior and Environment appropriations markup of fiscal 2019 spending legislation	5:30 p.m.

### **WEDNESDAY**

AclaraConnect conference	7 a.m.
California Energy Summit	7:20 a.m.
Solar Power Southeast	8 a.m.
National Infrastructure Week	8 a.m.
Energy Risk USA conference	8 a.m.
Senate Interior and Environment appropriations hearing on FY 19 EPA budget	9:30 a.m.
BPC's Executive Council on Infrastructure discussion on public- private partnerships	10 a.m.

Information Technology and Innovation Foundation event on manufacturing at the Energy Department	10 a.m.
House Energy and Water appropriations subcommittee markup of fiscal 2019 spending legislation	10 a.m.
House Science, Space and Technology hearing on using technology to address climate change	10 a.m.
Senate Foreign Relations business meeting on Francis R. Fannon, to be assistant secretary of State for energy resources	10 a.m.
House Environment Subcommittee hearing on New Source Review permitting reform	10:15 a.m.
House Natural Resources Committee markup	10:15 a.m.
Advanced Energy Economy webinar on grid cybersecurity	11 a.m.
House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee hearing on tribal energy bill	2 p.m.
National Press Club Legends Dinner with former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar	6 p.m.

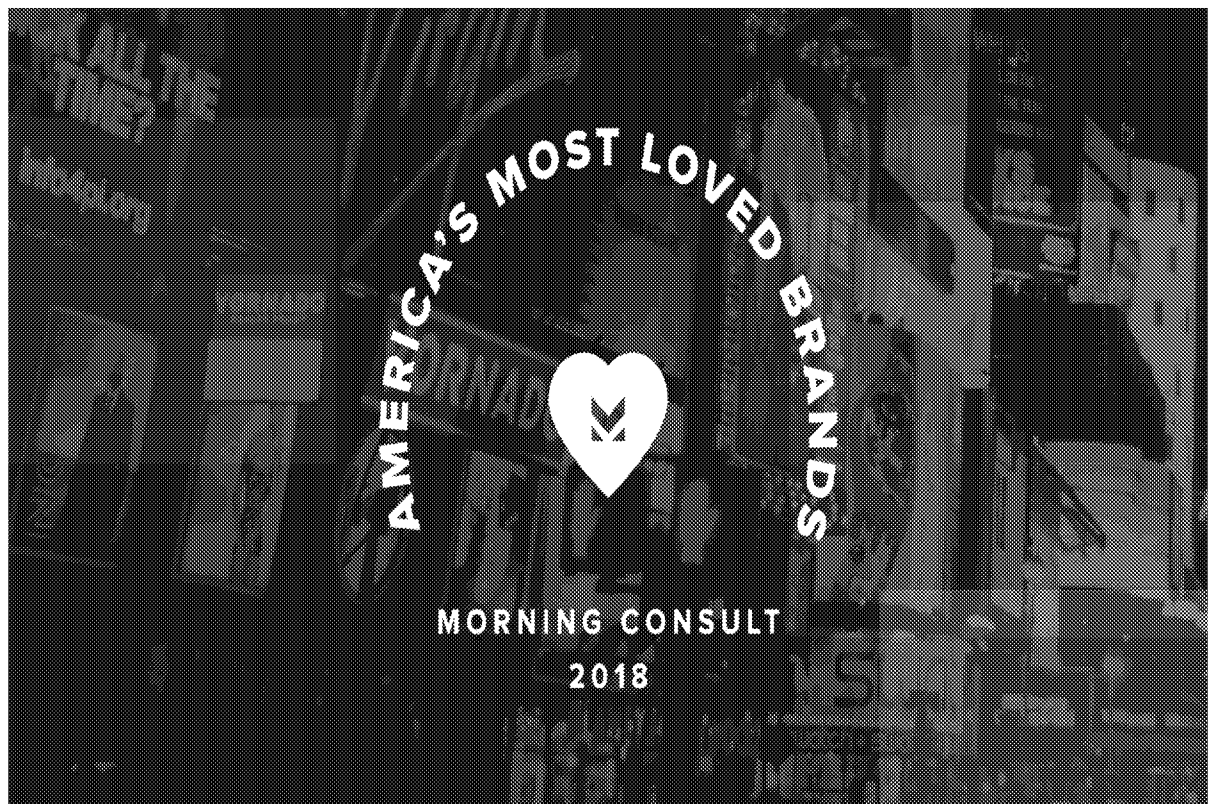
## **THURSDAY**

AclaraConnect conference	7 a.m.
California Energy Summit	8 a.m.
National Infrastructure Week	8 a.m.
CSIS conversation with Total S.A. Chairman and CEO Patrick Pouyanné	9 a.m.
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission open meeting	10 a.m.
House Natural Resources Oversight hearing on impediments to commerce and innovative injurious species management	10 a.m.
U.S. Energy Association event on a carbon sequestration partnership	10 a.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works hearing on S.2800, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018	10:15 a.m.
Advanced Energy Economy webinar on cybersecurity in a distributed energy future	11 a.m.
American Council on Renewable Energy webinar on community choice aggregation	12 p.m.
House Federal Lands Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 2365, H.R. 3777, H.R. 4824 and H.R. 5023	2 p.m.

## FRIDAY

National Infrastructure Week 8 a.m.



# These are the Most Loved Brands in America

The brands that define American culture and commerce, ranked using over 250,000 survey interviews with U.S. adults.

## General

Scott Pruitt requested, received 24/7 security starting on his first day at EPA

**Brady Dennis and Juliet Eilperin, The Washington Post**

Scott Pruitt began receiving round-the-clock security from the moment he stepped foot inside the Environmental Protection Agency in February 2017, the agency's inspector general said Monday.

Oil hits new multi-year high on tight supply, planned Iran sanctions

**Christopher Johnson, Reuters**

Oil prices hit a 3-1/2-year high on Tuesday, supported by tight supply and planned U.S. sanctions against Iran that are likely to restrict crude oil exports from one of the biggest producers in the Middle East.

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## Oil and Natural Gas

Arctic oil 'undrillable' amid global warming: U.N.'s ex-climate chief

**Alister Doyle, Reuters**

An architect of the Paris climate agreement urged governments on Tuesday to halt oil exploration in the Arctic, saying drilling was not economical and warming threatened the environmentally fragile region.

Investors urge fossil fuel firms to shun Trump's Arctic drilling plans

**Damian Carrington, The Guardian**

Investors managing more than \$2.5tn have warned oil firms and banks to shun moves by the US president, Donald Trump, to open the Arctic national wildlife refuge (ANWR) to drilling.

#### Shell Spreads Its Bets Around as It Prepares for a Greener Future

**Stanley Reed, The New York Times**

There seems to be little about the scrappy energy company in central England that would appeal to Royal Dutch Shell, the button-down oil giant.

#### Investors see big oil surge, but physical markets suggest caution

**Devika Krishna Kumar et al., Reuters**

Oil futures prices have soared past three-year highs, OPEC's deal has cut millions of barrels of inventory worldwide and investors are betting in record numbers that prices could rocket past \$80 and even hit \$90 a barrel this year.

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## Utilities and Infrastructure

#### 4 Things To Watch As FERC Sets Sights On Pipeline Policies

**Keith Goldberg, Law360**

From revamping 20-year-old guidelines for approving natural gas pipelines to sparking a massive rewrite of oil and gas pipeline contracts, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is working on several policy changes that could reshape how the pipeline industry does business.

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## Renewables

#### Tesla Considered Adding Eye Tracking and Steering-Wheel Sensors to Autopilot System

**Tim Higgins, The Wall Street Journal**

Long before the fatal crash of a Tesla car in March, some developers of the vehicle's Autopilot system expressed concern there weren't enough safeguards to ensure drivers remained attentive, people familiar with the discussions said.

China's Didi Gets Approval to Test Autonomous Cars in California

**Austen Hufford, The Wall Street Journal**

China's ride-sharing giant Didi Chuxing Technology Co. has been approved to launch live trials of autonomous vehicles on roads in California, becoming the latest company to explore advanced driving technology in the U.S. as safety concerns remain in the spotlight.

Electric-Car Era Threatens Firefighters With New Roadside Risks

**Alan Levin, Bloomberg**

Firefighters doused the blazing Tesla Inc. Model X's battery pack, and then company engineers removed about one-quarter of its power cells before the vehicle was deemed safe to tow off of a California freeway.

How Solar Panels on a Church Rooftop Broke the Law in N.C.

**Dan Gearino, InsideClimate News**

A North Carolina environmental group that tried to challenge the state's utility monopoly by installing solar panels on the roof of a predominantly African-American church and selling the church cheap, clean power has lost its appeal to the state's highest court.

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## **Coal**

Indiana natural gas plant repowering marks shift from coal to gas, renewables

**Jared Anderson, Platts**

The startup of Indianapolis Power & Light Company's Eagle Valley combined-cycle natural gas plant marks a shift toward gas as the utility's largest power generation source, replacing coal, the company said Monday.

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## **Nuclear**

Senate passes legislation that would change approval process for Xcel nuclear costs

**Mike Hughlett, Star Tribune**

Legislation passed by the Minnesota Senate would change the state's approval process for Xcel Energy's nuclear power costs - a move opposed by consumer and business groups.

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## **Climate**

The World Wants Air-Conditioning. That Could Warm the World.

**Kendra Pierre-Louis, The New York Times**

More than crickets and fireflies, more than baseball and cookouts, perhaps nothing signals the arrival of summer in the United States like the soft familiar whirl of air-conditioning.

Fiat Chrysler Employees Knew of Emissions Cheating, Documents in Shareholder Suit Claim

**Chester Dawson and Mike Spector, The Wall Street Journal**

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV employees believed the auto maker used illegal software in diesel-powered vehicles to cheat on U.S. emissions tests and concealed it from regulators, according to allegations by plaintiffs' lawyers in federal court documents unsealed Monday.

How Climate Change Is Making It Harder to Predict Outbreaks

**Lois Parshley, Scientific American**

Kobus Steenkamp's farm sprawls along a dirt road in South Africa's central plains, where the sky makes everything seem small.

Toxic Algae Blooms Occurring More Often, May Be Caught in Climate Change Feedback Loop

**Georgina Gustin, InsideClimate News**

Blooms of harmful algae in the nation's waters appear to be occurring much more frequently than in the past, increasing suspicions that the warming climate may be exacerbating the problem.

Citizens' proposal focused on cutting greenhouse gases

**The Associated Press**

Groups of Maine citizens want the state to strengthen its law cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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## Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

### States' Rights Proposal Proves to be Popular as Offshore Drilling Opposition Grows

**Frank Knapp Jr., Morning Consult**

In early January, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) introduced a new idea into the debate over offshore drilling in the Atlantic. A once strong supporter of exploring and drilling for oil off the East Coast, Graham said that states should have the right to opt out of any federal offshore drilling plan.

### Scott Pruitt and His Enemies

**The Editorial Board, The Weekly Standard**

We like what he's done. But the time has come.

### California's solar mandate is sparking a new energy debate

**Ben Geman, Axios**

California's mandate that new single-family homes and small multi-family dwellings must come with solar panels starting in 2020 has touched off a dispute among climate advocates about whether it's a good idea.

### As ExxonMobil Doubles Down on Oil and Gas, Investors Go Elsewhere

**Tom Sanzillo and Kathy Hipple, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis**

Even with the recent rebound in oil prices that accelerated after President Trump announced the U.S. would re-impose sanctions against Iran, energy companies no longer dominate the stock market like they once did.

### Trump's Environmental Agenda No Longer Pretending to Care About the Free Market

**Jonathan Chait, New York Magazine**

Donald Trump's environmental policy is one of the areas in which he has pursued a conventional Republican agenda that has pleased all wings of his party.

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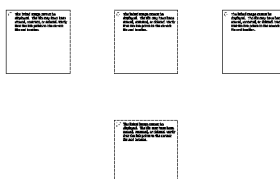
# Research Reports

## The Future of Cooling: Opportunities for energy-efficient air conditioning

**International Energy Agency**

The world faces a looming "cold crunch." Using air conditioners and electric fans to stay cool accounts for nearly 20% of the total electricity used in buildings around the world today.

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